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A.—(*a*) & (*b*) In the rules framed by the Government to regulate the action to be taken to combat cholera in municipal areas, municipal councils are required *inter alia* to store four cakes of 'Sunlight' soap. This soap, owing to its quality, cheapness and ready availability in all markets, has come to be recognized as the typical utility soap, but there was no intention to prevent municipal councils from stocking similar soaps of the same quality manufactured in India or elsewhere if they preferred to.

(*c*) The Government propose to amend the rules in question so that municipal councils who prefer to purchase 'Washwell' or other soaps of the same quality as 'Sunlight' may be made more clearly aware that they are at liberty to do so.

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"With regard to the answer to clause (*c*) of the question, may I know whether the Government have issued instructions?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar:—"Not yet."

Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao:—"May I know when they will issue them?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar:—"I cannot say that exactly; all I can say is that the matter is under consideration."

Location of the Hindu cremation ground near Attaiyampatti in Salem taluk.

* 707 *Q.*—Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he is aware that the caste Hindus cremate dead bodies very near the village of Attaiyampatti (Adi-Dravida village), Salem taluk, causing great inconvenience to the villagers;

(*b*) whether he is aware that the village well is very near the cremation ground and that consequently the whole well gets filled with ashes after the cremation; and

(*c*) what steps the Government or the health authorities in Salem taluk propose to take in this matter?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The District Health Officer has selected another suitable site for the burning ground and the President, District Board, Salem, has addressed the President, Taluk Board, to take immediate action to close the existing burning ground and provide another.

Location of the Muhammadan burial-ground in Aspari village, Alur taluk.

* 708 *Q.*—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Muhammadans of Aspari village, Alur taluk, Bellary district, are burying their dead in the bed of the village tank; and

(*b*) whether any steps have been taken to give them an unobjectionable place for burial-ground?

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A.—(a) & (b) A portion of the tank-bed was used by the Muhammadans of Aspari village, Alur taluk, Bellary district, as a burial-ground for a long time. It was only last year that this was objected to. The President, Taluk Board, Adoni, has visited the village and selected another site and it is about to be acquired by the Taluk Board. Steps have also been taken to prohibit further burials in the tank-bed.

Alleged inconveniences caused by the Hindu burial-ground at Aspari village, Alur taluk.

*709 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Hindus of Aspari village, Alur taluk, Bellary district, are burying their dead in rastha poramboke leading to Chikkanahalli village inconveniencing the bandies and men using the rastha;

(b) whether the Hindus burn their dead close to the village drinking well; and

(c) if so, whether any steps have been taken to give them unobjectionable sites for the burial and burning of the dead?

A.—(a) & (b) No complaint has been made to the local authorities that the Hindus of Aspari village, Alur taluk, Bellary district, are burying their dead in rastha poramboke leading to Chikkanahalli village or cremating them close to the village drinking water well.

(c) If evidence of such practices is forthcoming local health authorities will take steps to stop them and, if necessary, to prosecute those who disobey.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"Is it the idea of the Government that no steps need be taken to alleviate the nuisance caused to the people because those people are too ignorant and unable to make a complaint about the matter?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar:—"I am sorry, Mr. President, that the hon Member has not understood the answer correctly. We are not aware of any inconvenience."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"When I tabled that question, I made myself responsible for the facts contained in it; is that not evidence enough at least to make an enquiry into the matter?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar:—"The Government have made enquiries."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"May I ask if the facts are as stated by me?"

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar:—"The information of the Government is that it has not taken place so far; if it takes place hereafter, trespassers will be prosecuted."